

SHEET MEMBER HOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates a sheet member holder for holding a sheet member in a vertical position and more particularly, to such a sheet member holder, which holds a floating ornament on a fluid inside the cover shell thereof.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Various holder devices for hold a sign or page in a vertical position are known. Exemplars are seen in US Patent Nos. 6059249; D418166; 6267346B1; 5857654; 5911398; D388464; D342096; US D478353 S; 4125243; D101143; 1609700; 1152461; 1681586; 3272183; 4685647. These designs commonly provide a groove in the shell for holding a sign or page in a vertical position.

15 However, because the groove has a certain depth and is provided on the middle or near the front side of the shell, the inserted sign or page blocks a big part of the shell from the user's sight, i.e., the printing on the shell cannot be seen clearly after insertion of a sign or page into the groove.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. According to one aspect of the present invention, the sheet member holder comprises a holder base, which comprises a carrier and a smoothly arched upright upwardly extended from the top side of the carrier at one side, and a dome-like cover member mounted on the carrier and defining with the smoothly

25 arched upright a smoothly arched retaining gap for holding a sheet member

firmly in a vertical position. According to another aspect of the present invention, the dome-like cover member holds a fluid and a floating ornament on the fluid. After insertion of a sheet member into the retaining gap in between the dome-like cover member and the smoothly arched upright, the inserted sheet member does not block the user's sight from viewing the floating ornament on the fluid inside the dome-like cover member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective assembly view of a sheet member holder according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the sheet member holder according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line A-A of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 shows an alternate form of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, a sheet member holder in accordance with the present invention is shown comprised of a holder base 1, and a cover member 2. The cover member 2 is a hollow member mounted in the holder base 1 to hold a sheet member or the like in a vertical position. Further, the cover member 2 can be filled with a fluid and floating ornaments (not shown). Therefore, the sheet member holder can hold a sign or page in a vertical position while serving as an ornamental display toy.

The holder case 1 comprises a carrier 11, an endless coupling flange 12 upwardly protruded from the top surface of the carrier 11 for holding the cover member 2, a smoothly arched upright 13 upwardly extended from the top surface of the carrier 11 at one side, and a through hole 14 extended through the

top and bottom sides of the carrier 2 within the area surrounded by the endless coupling flange 12. After installation of the cover member 2 in the holder base 1, water can be filled through the through hole 14 into the space surrounded by the endless coupling flange 12 between the holder base 1 and the cover member 2.

5 The cover member 2 comprises a dome-like cover shell 23, a holding chamber 21 defined in the dome-like cover shell 23, and an endless coupling groove 22 formed in the bottom side of the dome-like cover shell 23 around the bottom open side of the holding chamber 21. After coupling of the endless coupling groove 22 of the cover member 2 to the endless coupling flange 12 of
10 the holder base 1, a retaining gap 3 is defined between the dome-like cover shell 23 and the smoothly arched upright 13 for holding a sheet member in a vertical position. Because the retaining gap 3 has a smoothly arched cross section, the sheet member held in the retaining gap 3 is maintained in a curved status, which enhances the stiffness of the sheet member in the upright position.

15 FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line A-A of FIG. 1. A floating ornament 4 is put in the holding chamber 21 of the cover member 2 before fastening the cover member 2 to the holder base 1. After connection of the cover member 2 to the holder base 1, a fluid 5 is filled into the holding chamber 21 through the through hole 14. After filling of a certain amount of the fluid 5 into
20 the holding chamber 21, the through hole 14 is sealed. When set the sheet member holder on a flat surface, for example, the tabletop, the floating ornament 4 is floating on the fluid 5, causing a sense of beauty.

 When holding a sheet member 6 in a vertical position in the retaining gap 3 between the dome-like cover shell 23 of the cover member 2 and the
25 smoothly arched upright 13 of the holder base 1, the sheet member 6 does not

block the user's sight from viewing the internal scene of the cover member 2, i.e., the user can see the floating of the floating ornament 4 on the fluid 5.

FIG. 4 shows an alternate form of the present invention. According to this embodiment, the fluid 5 filled in the holding chamber 21 of the cover member 2 includes two liquids of different specific gravity; the floating ornament 4 is a three-dimensional block member marked with any of a variety of signs (company's logo, carton figure, etc.). Furthermore, the outside wall of the cover member 2 may be printed with a printing or sign for advertising purpose.

10 Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.